Seeds Developed by Navdanya Gene Rank

1689. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be plea sed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that desi seed? developed by Navdanya Gene Bank's "Beej Bachao Andolan"' give higher yields, more fodder and a nutritious output in varying atmospheric conditions as reported in the 'Statesman' dated 2nd March. 1995, and

(b) how fax do they compare with seeds of the same grains developed abroad, in terms of their yield, water and fertilizer requirements, and their immunity from diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) At present, there is no information about the reported performance of the said varieties.

(b) In view of the position indicated above, the question of comparison does not arise.

Losses due to Natural Calamities in Tamil Nadu

1690. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIR UMBI: Will the Minister of AGRICUL TURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loss in terms of rupees, incurred due to natural calamities in Tamil Nadu during the last three years as estimated and informed by the State "Government:

(b) what is the amount sanctioned by the Central Government during the same period in this regard; and

(e) what is the amount actually spent bv the Government of Tamil Nadu far the rehabilitation of the people affected by. the natural calamities, during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE {SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Government, of Tamii Nadu have reported the following losses in the State due to natural calamities during the last three years:—

Year	Loss (Rs. in crores)
1991-92	389.00
1992-93	530.00
1993-94	666.00

(b) Government of India had released Rs. 29.25 crores each, during the above three years as the Central share of Calamity Relief Fund.

(c) The State Government have reported the following expenditure on relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities during the last three years:—

Year	Expenditure (Rs. in crores)
1991-92	36.05
1992-93	1.06
1993-94	40.75

Production of foodgrains in Gujarat

1691. SHRI KANAKSINH MOHAN-SINH MANGROL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

la) the total production of foodgrains in Gujarat State during 1993-94 and the target used for the year 1994-95;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps in increase the production of food grains during the next financial year in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF .AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The total production of foodgrains in Gujarat State during 1993-94 was 37.78 lakh tonnes. Targets fixed for 1994-95 is 57.85 lakh tonnes.

(b) aad (c) For increasing the productivity and production of foodgrains, crop oriented production programmes viz. Integrated Cereals Development Programme —Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals; and National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP) are being implemented. Besides, programmes for increasing the use of fertiliser in low consumption areas and extension of irrigation facilities are being implemented to improve the production of crops.
The Schemes focus on augmenting the availability of critical inputs through subsidised distribution of certified seeds, herbicides, plant protection chemicals, improved farm implements etc. Besides, rield demonstrations ar.d farmers training prosrammes are organised to assist the fanners and improve their skills for adoption of rainfed production technology in respect of maize and millets as well as promoting effective control of weeds through use of herbicides.

Suggestions by CTRI

1692. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister" of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) has suggested that farmen use move potash fertilizer in tobacco cultivation to reduce tar content of tobacco;

(b) whether CTRI has conducted any experimental programmes to test this finding; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTCR OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The Central Tobacco, Research Institute (CTRI) has suggested to *the,* farmers to apply only the recommended dooses of potassic fertilizer-s as given below;

Northern light soils of Andhra Pradesh 80-120 kg/ha defending upon the availability of potash in soil; Southern light soils of Andhra Pradesh—60 kgha; southern black soils of Andhra pradesh-50 kg/ha and light soils of Karnataka-80 kg|ha.

(b) Yes, Sir,

(c) Recommended doses have give) significant reduction of total particulat matter such as smoke nicotine and carbot monoxide by exogenous application to increase leaf potash (K) content to 3.5 to 4.0 per cent. The higher dose has no' indicated significant increase in yield. Tht CTRI has a continuing progamme for safer tobacco to reduce tar content.

CM-12 Variety of Tobacco

1693. SHRI YERRA -NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Tabocco Research Jnrtitute (CTRI) has evolved a new variety of tobacco called CM-12 for Northern light soils in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether CM12, can be grown in areas of East and West Godaveri districts in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULITURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The FCV tobacco variety CM-12 is recommended for growing in irrigated conditions and light soil areas of East Godavari, West Godavari district and Khammam districts of Andhra Pradesh.

High Pesticide residue of Crops

1694. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of our crops have high pesticide residue;

(b) if so, what Steps are proposed to reduce pesticide residue; and

(c) the details thereof?